



Homeland Security

Privacy Office, Mail Stop 0655

July 19, 2013

Shawn Musgrave
MuckRock
P.O. Box 55819
Boston, MA 02205-5819

Re: **2013-HQFO-00778**

Dear Mr. Musgrave:

This acknowledges receipt of your Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request to the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), dated June 27, 2013, and seeking the following records: The report submitted in compliance with Sec. 534 of NDAA 2013: (a) Reports required not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of the Act, each Secretary and military department (and the Secretary of Homeland Security in the case of the Coast Guard) shall submit to the congressional committees specified in the subsection (c) a report on hazing in each Armed Force under the jurisdiction of the Secretary; (b) Elements the report on an Armed Force required by subsection (a) shall include the following: (1) An evaluation of the definition of hazing contained in the Secretary of Defense Policy Memorandum dated August 28, 1997; (2) A discussion of the policies of the Armed Force for preventing and responding to incidents of hazing; (3) A description of the methods implemented to track and report, including report anonymously, incidents of hazing in the Armed Forces; (4) An assessment by the Secretary submitting the report of the following: (a) The scope of the problem of hazing in the Armed Force; (b) The training on recognizing and preventing hazing provided members of the Armed Force; (c) The actions taken to prevent and respond to hazing incidents in the Armed Force; (d) The extent to which the Uniform Code of Military Justice specifically addresses the prosecution of persons subject to the Code who are alleged to have committed hazing; and (e) The feasibility of establishing a database to track, respond to, and resolve incidents of hazing. (5) A description of the additional actions, if any, the Secretary submitting the report proposes to take to further address the incidence of hazing in the Armed Force; (6) Any recommended changes to the Uniform Code of Military Justice or the Manual for Courts-Martial to improve the prosecution of persons alleged to have committed hazing in the Armed Force; (a) Submission of Reports - the reports required by subsection (a) shall be submitted to (1) the Committee on Armed Services and the Committee on Commerce; Science, and Transportation of the Senate; and (2) the Committee on Armed Services and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives. Your request was received in this office on June 28, 2013.

After careful review of your FOIA request, we determined that your request is too broad in scope or did not specifically identify the records which you are seeking. Records must be described in reasonably sufficient detail to enable government employees who are familiar with the subject

area to locate records without placing an unreasonable burden upon the agency. For this reason, §5.3(b) of the DHS regulations, 6 C.F.R. Part 5, require that you describe the records you are seeking with as much information as possible to ensure that our search can locate them with a reasonable amount of effort. Whenever possible, a request should include specific information about each record sought, such as the date, title or name, author, recipients, and subject matter of the records, if known, or the DHS component or office you believe created and/or controls the record. The FOIA does not require an agency to create new records, answer questions posed by requesters, or attempt to interpret a request that does not identify specific records.

Please resubmit your request containing a reasonable description of the records you are seeking. Upon receipt of a perfected request, you will be advised as to the status of your request.

If we do not hear from you within 30 days from the date of this letter, we will assume you are no longer interested in this FOIA request, and the case will be administratively closed. Please be advised that this action is not a denial of your request and will not preclude you from filing other requests in the future.

Your request has been assigned reference number **2013-HQFO-00778**. Please refer to this identifier in any future correspondence. You may contact this office at 1-866-431-0486 or at 202-343-1743.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Katlin Schaffer". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "K" and "S".

Katlin Schaffer
Student Intern
FOIA Operations